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Increases in ORR Responsibilities Since October 1958

1. Although there has been no change in ORR's charter or major addition to its basic responsibilities since October 1958, there have been some changes in emphasis in research, a widening of scope in a number of the subjects covered, and significant increases in support activity requested of the Office.

2. Several developments within the Economic Research Area of ORR indicate these trends.

a. The scope of our work on the Sino-Soviet Bloc's economic activities in the less developed non-Bloc areas has continued to grow as new countries have become involved with the Bloc with respect to both military and economic aid. Increased interest and responsiveness by the field in providing information and growing demands for detailed intelligence on this subject have substantially augmented ORR's workload in this area of priority concern.

b. The pressing need for information on the nature and magnitude of the Soviet guided missile threat has continued. Although a substantial increase in personnel working on this problem was effected during 1958, subsequent development of the DD/I Task Force, the requirement for exhaustive analysis of the growing amount of information, and the concentration of the intelligence community's interest on the subject have resulted in some increase in the number of professionals working full-time on Soviet missile production and deployment problems, with substantial support from ORR specialists in such fields as transportation, electronics, and construction.

c. Military economic research has also broadened in scope as the usefulness of ORR's mission-oriented efforts of Soviet military expenditures has become more widely recognized. The Office is undertaking exploratory efforts to provide similar estimates of Chinese Communist military expenditures.

d. Current emphasis in our aggregative research has been directed toward investigating the role of technical change, including automation, in the Soviet economy and the significance of such change on Soviet economic growth. Comparisons of the Soviet and U.S. economies are being demanded increasingly by our consumers, and our research and intelligence reporting reflects this interest.

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e. Such factors as Soviet entry in Western petroleum markets and the effectiveness of economic sanctions and of potential blockades or embargoes under present crisis conditions have also influenced the direction of our economic research in recent months.

f. The NIS contribution of the Economic Research Area has been expanded recently by the assumption of responsibility for the Manpower (Section 44) and Public Welfare (Section 46) parts of the NIS chapters on the countries of the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

3. In the Geographic Research Area of ORR there have been some changes in emphasis and the assumption of one new major task of continuing priority interest.

a. As a result of the need for bringing together information of direct intelligence value obtainable from a variety of sources, ten professional analysts are being assigned to [redacted] undertaken in support of a major effort conducted jointly with the Army Map Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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c. The program for providing Geographic Intelligence Memoranda covering areas of current or potential critical concern has been intensified as a result of the recent pace of events and the demonstrated utility of this background support. Examples are the Memoranda on Laos, the Congo, Angola, West New Guinea, the Zone of Conflict in Southeast Asia, and Resistance in Tibet.

d. There has been a shift since 1958 away from basic intelligence research as exemplified by political territorial studies, by some background support to economic intelligence, and by routine support for potential clandestine collection activities, toward problem-oriented research of a priority nature. [redacted]

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[redacted] are illustrative of this shift. There has also been an increase in geographic intelligence research support for:

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(1) Investigation of Soviet and Chinese missile testing ranges;

25X1A2d2 (2) Scientific intelligence studies on Soviet nuclear energy, BW, CW, and geodetic and mapping programs; and

25X1C (3) The [REDACTED] and other special collection activities, [REDACTED]

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25X1C e. Since 1958 there has been a substantial increase in cartographic support to the DD/P, particularly with respect to specific covert activities. Demands for cartographic support for the Department of State, for NPIC [REDACTED] [REDACTED] have been increasing and a substantially increased requirement for HIS support is programmed.

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f. Six members of the Map Library staff have been assigned to a Special Collection Support Branch, established since 1958, which coordinates for the U.S. Government mapping community the guidance for the clandestine collection of Bloc topographic and other foreign maps of priority interest. An increase in the number of requests handled from 22,000 in calendar year 1958 to a projected 25,000 in calendar year 1961 is indicative of the increased use of the reference facility of the Map Library.

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25X1C 4. Late in 1958 the intelligence community undertook a re-examination of the [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] While this re-direction of effort is significant, the over-all increase in workload has been slight.

ORR/CIA
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